

order to provide for his family and earn his education. His hard work and dedication paid off, when he graduated from Meharry as a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society in 1954. His residency in Obstetrics was completed in 1957. Dr. Matthew Walker trained him in the surgical department at Meharry. In 1957, he accepted a post-graduate program in OB-GYN at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where as one of only two African Americans, his classmates chose him to serve as class president for the year long program.

As a respected physician, Dr. Nicholas returned to Meharry in 1958, and his tenure on Meharry's faculty ranged from 1959 to 1984 during which time he served as vice chairman of the OB-GYN surgery department for more than 23 years and as Dean of Admissions at the School of Medicine from 1967 to 1982.

Meharry honored him many times, eventually establishing two scholarships in his name. In 1984, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for Medicine from the National Alumni Association and in 1999, the Alumnus of the Year Award. The Meharry singers recognized him in 1985 for "giving dedicated service to improving the academic, cultural and social life of students at the college." A birthing room was named for him at Hubbard Hospital in 1989, and ten years later the OB/GYN learning center was named in his honor as well. An icon has been erected in his honor at the corner of 21st and Hermosa Avenues on the Meharry campus.

Throughout his career he represented Meharry on a number of committees and medical associations, including the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the American Association of Medical Colleges, the R. F. Boyd Medical Society, and the committee for special education within the Metropolitan Board of Education.

As founding member of the Planned Parenthood Association of Nashville, he served as the first treasurer and later as a member of the Board of Directors. Additionally, he was the first vice-president of Children and Family Services in Nashville.

Outside of outstanding educational and healthcare activities, Dr. Nicholas contributed to the community as a founding member of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, serving on the Fisk-Meharry Community Advisory Council and as a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

He counted among his most rewarding contributions to the education of many family members and friends. He would often say, "I did not invest in stocks and bonds, I invested in people. The dividends have been grand!"

Left to cherish his precious memories are his devoted wife of sixty-one years, Violet May Nicholas; his loving daughters, Gertrude Nicholas Brooks of Morganfield, KY and Dr. Allison Nicholas Metz of San Francisco, CA; granddaughter, Dr. Marilyn Nicole Metz of Loma Linda, CA; grandsons Ernest Adalbert Brooks III of San Francisco, Philip A. Nicholas Brooks of Nashville, Leon Benjamin Metz 111, Lionel Nicholas Metz and Laurence Christopher Metz, all of San Francisco; nieces, Noreen Blanche Nicholas, Audrey Nicholas Caldwell (Van), Paula DeLeon (Hixford), Maxine Ebanks (Samuel), Carinen Nicholas and Grace Lewis; nephews, Dr. Phillip Boume (Vicky), Cecil Nicholas and Dr. Earl Nicholas (Wonza); sister-in-law, Vertibelle Lewis; dear

cousins, Mavis and Ferdie Madden; many grandnieces and nephews; several cousins; "sisters" Ruby Smith and Izetta Cooper; devoted friends, Dr. Alford and Dorothy Vassall, Drs. Myrtle and George Mason and family; Pearlina Gilpin Fletcher, Joy Vassall and daughter Camille; and a host of dear friends, relatives and colleagues.

Today we honor Dr. Nicholas' significant investment to Tennessee as a truly compassionate leader and friend. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

IN HONOR OF THE BAYONNE MEDICAL CENTER

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the renaming of Bayonne Hospital to Bayonne Medical Center. The renaming will take place at a reception on Wednesday, February 13, 2002, in the Main Lobby of the Bayonne Medical Center.

Bayonne Medical Center's new name is a reflection of the facility's outstanding healthcare services that are provided to the community of Bayonne. What makes the Bayonne Medical Center so outstanding is its staffs commitment to the well-being of its patients, the citizens of Bayonne, as well as its wide array of cutting edge health care technology. The topnotch medical staff, nursing professionals, administrative staff, and volunteers offer patient-focused care, professional diagnostic and treatment options, and a wide range of clinical services.

For more than one hundred years, Bayonne Hospital has played an essential role in providing clinically advanced healthcare services for an ever growing and changing community. Over the past century, the medical professionals at Bayonne Hospital have not only shown their skill in adapting to great life-saving advancements in medical technology and health care services, but they have also demonstrated their commitment to our community by adapting their services to meet the needs of all of our community, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, or income. I have no doubt that Bayonne Medical Center will continue to meet the additional challenges and advancements of the coming century, just as Bayonne Hospital has done for the past 100 years.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bayonne Medical Center for providing excellent care to the citizens of Bayonne, New Jersey. Thanks for a past, present, and future of quality health care for our community.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEXI- CAN AMERICAN ALUMNI ASSO- CIATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Southern Cali-

fornia Mexican American Alumni Association (USC MAAA). Since its inception, USC MAAA has committed itself to the development of funds to provide tuition assistance grants to Latino students enrolled at the University of Southern California.

USC MAAA was founded by Raul Vargas and seven other alums, who approached the president of the university and set the parameters for the organization during the 1973-74 school year. The university offered to match the MAAA's undergraduate scholarship monies on a two to one basis, and the USC Graduate School offered to match the graduate student fellowships on a one to one basis.

USC MAAA has provided educational grants to over 5,200 USC Latino students amounting to over \$8.9 million dollars. As such, USC MAAA has played a critical role in helping students attain degrees in various fields such as medicine, law, media, business, humanities, science, and social sciences.

The success of USC MAAA can be largely accredited to the leadership provided by its Executive Director, Raul Vargas. A USC alum himself, Raul Vargas recognizes the great financial obstacles that Latinos face in attaining their academic goals. Therefore, Raul Vargas has worked tirelessly to garner support for USC MAAA from prominent members of the community, so that Latino students can make their educational and career dreams a reality.

This year, USC MAAA celebrates its 27th Annual Fundraising Dinner. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the work of USC MAAA.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM B. MOGE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise before the House today. On January 18, 2002, Western Massachusetts lost one of its most cherished and influential citizens. Mr. William B. Moge of West Springfield passed away at the age of 93.

Bill Moge was one of a kind. A graduate of Springfield Technical High, he began a coaching career in the late 1930s which lasted until his retirement in 1984. His accomplishments in football, baseball and basketball earned him recognition by the Massachusetts High School Coaches Hall of Fame in all three sports. After his last football game, in 1983, the field at Szot Park in Chicopee, Massachusetts was named after him. His alma mater, Providence College, inducted him into its Hall of Fame in 1984.

However, Bill Moge was far more than a coach. He was a guidance counselor at Chicopee High School. He was a motivator and a disciplinarian. As a result of his teaching, his players have excelled in all walks of life, from professional sports to politics. If you talked with his players today, they wouldn't mention xs and os or game strategies. They would tell you that Coach Moge instilled confidence in each and every one of them. He taught his players how to succeed in life, not just sports. His legacy will live on forever in the players who became coaches and who have passed on his lessons to their own players.

The importance of people like Bill Moge cannot be overstated. He left a positive and indelible mark on Chicopee High School, its students and its athletes. The Western Massachusetts community will sorely miss him.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to extend my sympathy to the family of Bill Moge, his six children, ten grandchildren and one great grandchild.

HONORING THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LATINO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of an important constituency in the Second Congressional District of North Carolina: the growing Latino population.

Three years ago, I formed the Second Congressional District Latino Advisory Committee to reach out to North Carolina's Latino community and provide responsive representation to the needs and concerns of this rapidly expanding community. North Carolina has undergone tremendous demographic changes over the past decade, and the Latino population is the fastest growing group in our state. During my service in the U.S. House, I have worked hard to serve the needs and represent the interests of all the people of the Second District. I established this committee to reach out to some of our newest residents, to open up lines of communication, and forge strong bonds among all groups of people.

Mr. Speaker, the Latino Advisory Committee, small upon its inception, has grown to over 70 members today. Among those who have joined the Committee are the Honorable Carolina Zaragoza-Flores, the Consulate General of the Mexican Consulate in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Ms. Maribell Diaz, the Executive Director of the Hispanic Task Force of Lee County, North Carolina. I am pleased that the members of the Hispanic Advisory Committee represent a crosssection of our state's diverse Latino population.

I rely on their insight and knowledge to advise me on issues important to their community. For instance, during our last meeting held on August 23, 2001, members of the Second Congressional District Latino Advisory Committee raised a number of diverse concerns. Mr. Speaker, prior to the terrorist attacks of September 11, immigration and amnesty proposals were hot topics in Washington, and the Bush Administration was contemplating major changes in U.S. immigration policy. Latino Advisory Committee members expressed concerns that any immigration and amnesty proposal should address a number of key points: family reunification, earned access to legalization, border safety and protection, an enhanced temporary worker program, and fairness for immigrants and legal residents. However, as we all know, the terrorist attacks put immigration liberalization proposals on the backburner. It is my hope that the Congress will not forget the plight of America's immigrant families, who still need our help.

Latino Advisory Committee members also raised concerns about extension of the Sec-

tion 245(i) Visa Program. Mr. Speaker, the Section 245(i) Visa Program allows illegal immigrants to apply for permanent residency while remaining in the country. Our members expressed serious concerns that the expiration of the Section 245(i) Visa Program would unnecessarily rip immigrant families apart. I believe that Congress must answer the call for fairness and justice in our immigration laws and extend the Section 245(i) Visa Program. Immigration has played a critical role in America's history, and immigrants have been essential to the development of our economy and our society. I was disappointed that conferees to the Fiscal Year 2002 Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations bill elected to omit a Senate provision that would have permanently extended this worthy program. It is my sincere hope that Congress will extend the Section 245(i) Visa Program soon.

Mr. Speaker, the next meeting of the Second Congressional District Latino Advisory Committee will be held on February 20. I look forward to another lively discussion with our members about ways in which I can better serve them in the U.S. House. I extend my sincere gratitude to each member of the Latino Advisory Committee for their participation in this group. The most important job I have as a Congressman is to be the voice of the people. In the Second District we have many different voices and more than one language, and contributions of our Latino Community help bring us all together as one unifying chorus. I encourage each of my colleagues to consider establishing similar committees in their own districts.

HONORING MS. ELIZABETH BROWN CALLETON

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Elizabeth Brown Calleton for her forty years of contributions to women's health care and family planning in the San Gabriel Valley community.

Ms. Elizabeth Brown Calleton graduated from Smith College in 1956 with a Bachelors degree in government. She continued her education and received a Masters degree in 1962 from Columbia University in Public Law and Government. A decade later, Ms. Calleton began her professional career as an Administrative Assistant in Planned Parenthood in Pasadena, California and in 1974 she became Associate Director. She has been the Executive Director since 1979.

In addition to her commitment to Planned Parenthood, Ms. Brown Calleton was past President of League of Women Voters of the Pasadena area chapter and has served on the board of Young and Healthy, Women At Work, and Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California.

Her contributions have been recognized by many including the Women of Achievement, Magna Carta Business and Professional Women, and the Pasadena-Foothill YWCA.

Although Ms. Calleton worked hard to make significant inroads on the area of women's health care, she was also able to be a great mother and grandmother to her three children and her four grandchildren.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable woman for her contributions in the area of women's health care to the San Gabriel Valley community.

LET'S FIND A CURE FOR SCLERODERMA

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, February 7, I introduced H. Con. Res. 320, a bill to help the more than 300,000 Americans who suffer from Scleroderma. Scleroderma is a chronic, often progressive autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks its own tissues.

The disease manifests itself in two forms: localized Scleroderma, effecting the skin and underlying tissue, and systemic Scleroderma, also known as systemic sclerosis, a potentially life-threatening disease that attacks internal organs including the lungs, heart, kidneys, esophagus and gastrointestinal tract.

Scleroderma can vary a great deal in terms of severity. While for a few individuals it is merely a nuisance, for many it is a life-threatening illness. For most, it is a disease that affects how they live their daily lives.

The wide range of symptoms and localized and systemic variations of the disease make it especially hard to diagnose. The average diagnosis is made 5 years after the onset of symptoms. Once diagnosed, however, people with Scleroderma can only look forward to symptomatic relief, as there is no known cure.

Symptoms may include swelling, hardening and thickening of the skin, blood vessel spasms with severe discomfort in the fingers and toes, weight loss, joint pain, swallowing difficulties, nonhealing ulcerations on the fingertips and extreme fatigue. In its more advanced forms, Scleroderma can prevent patients from performing even the simplest tasks.

Among the goals of my legislation is to help adequately fund research projects regarding Scleroderma; hold a Scleroderma symposium that would bring together distinguished scientists and clinicians from across the United States to determine the most important priorities in Scleroderma research and to establish a national epidemiological study to better track the incidence of this disease.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in bringing awareness and find a cure to this devastating disease.

HONORING SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in the well of the United States House of Representatives to wish a Happy 60th Birthday to a statesman and one of my esteemed colleagues in the United States Senate. During his first 60 years, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL has influenced thousands of people, in both Kentucky and throughout the United States.